

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 129

By Finney L

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Thomas Wayne Fisher
of Dresden.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Thomas Wayne Fisher; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Wayne Fisher was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fisher held several public offices during his remarkable one-hundred-and-one years of life; he served for twenty-four years as Clerk and Master of the Weakley County Chancery Court, in addition to serving with great probity as Dresden's mayor; and

WHEREAS, born December 28, 1906, Thomas Wayne Fisher was the son of Delmer and Delia Tice Fisher; and

WHEREAS, in 1930, Mr. Fisher earned his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Wayne Fisher rendered sterling service to his country as a member of the United States Navy during World War II; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fisher's dedication to public education in Tennessee knew no bounds; he served as the principal of both Palmersville and Sharon High Schools, and he was later elected Superintendent of Weakley County Schools; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure as Superintendent, Mr. Fisher oversaw the implementation of the county's first public school busing system; and

WHEREAS, in 1953, Thomas Wayne Fisher was appointed to the University of Tennessee Board of Trustees, on which he served for twenty-eight years; and

WHEREAS, during Mr. Fisher's estimable tenure on the Board, he served as the Vice Chairman, Chairman of the Buildings and Grounds Committee, and as a member of the Academic Affairs, Agriculture, and Student Affairs Committees; and

WHEREAS, for his unflagging devotion to higher education in the State of Tennessee, Thomas Wayne Fisher was honored with the Chancellor's Award for University Service by the University of Tennessee-Martin; and

WHEREAS, a valued member of several civic organizations, Mr. Fisher was a life member of the Dresden Masonic Lodge, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the American Legion; and

WHEREAS, he also belonged to the Dresden Lions Club and served as a Trustee for the Dresden Sunset Cemetery Association; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fisher was appointed Grand Marshal of the annual Tennessee Iris Festival Parade in Dresden; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Wayne Fisher truly reveled in the life of his community, and for his enthusiasm and devotion, he was named an Outstanding Citizen of Dresden; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fisher was an active and devout member of the Dresden First United Methodist Church, where he served as Sunday School Superintendent, Chairman of the Building Committee, member of the Administrative Board , Lay Leader, Trustee, and Sunday School teacher, and was also a member of the Huntingdon First United Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Wayne Fisher was deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fisher was preceded in death by his loving wife of seventy years, Ivania Hawks Fisher, his twin brother, Wendell Fisher, and a grandson, David Wayne Tarwater; and

WHEREAS, he is survived by his daughter and her husband, Sherry and Roy Tarwater, his grandson, John Harrell Tarwater, his sister, Mildred Clarke, and two brothers, Russell Fisher and Warner Fisher; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Wayne Fisher leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Thomas Wayne Fisher, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Fisher.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.